

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 17, 2013. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Barry Cox, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Christopher Schuchard, Lou Sotelo, and John Stauter. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, Assistant to the City Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos, Finance Director Cindy Von Holten, Acting Fire Chief Gary Cook, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Cox made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda, as follows:

- A) Minutes from June 3, 2013 meeting
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$687,074.53
- C) Partial Payment #12 for City Hall remodeling project to Sjostrom & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$299,991.95
- D) Authorize City Manager to sign support documents on behalf of Sterling Park District's "Safe Route to Schools" grant award
- E) Final Pay Request for 2012 Street Project Contract #1 to Civil Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$11,659.03

The motion was seconded by Alderman Elston. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2013-06-13 Vacating approximately 300' of an alley right-of-way** in the 1500 and 1600 blocks between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. Mayor Lee opened a public hearing and asked for comments. There were no comments. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Sotelo made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2013-06-14 Rezoning 1805 First Avenue from R-4 to R-5 Special Use**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Mayor Lee noted this zoning change was part of the parking lot expansion for CGH Medical Center but was omitted from the Ordinance expanding the Special Use Permit. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Ordinance #2013-06-15 Prevailing Wage Ordinance**; seconded by Alderman Stauter. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Martin made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2013-06-16 Providing for the Levy of an Additional Tax of .02% of the Value of all the Taxable Property in the City of Sterling, Whiteside County, Illinois for the Maintenance, Repairs, and Alterations of Library Buildings and Equipment in the City of Sterling, Illinois**; seconded by Alderman Elston. Alderman Cox asked if this resolution is necessary every year. Manager Shumard stated this resolution is necessary to levy the tax annually and remains constant. Attorney Coplan explained the amount is not cumulative. Alderman Stauter asked why it is necessary. Coplan indicated State statutes mandate it. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2013-06-17 Amending the Enterprise Zone** to add property in Morrison for an assisted living facility; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Ordinance No. 2013-06-18 Amending the Sterling City Code as it Relates to Definitions in Section 10-26 of Amusements and Entertainments**; seconded by Alderman Martin. The amendment links City code to the state's definitions of amusements to include inflatables and define an operator as "any person who sets up for another". Alderman Schuchard acknowledged that state licenses are to protect citizens and wondered who is liable if a bouncy house is not safe. Attorney Coplan stated that we issue licenses to qualified operators but do not perform inspections. Alderman Stauter asked if this excludes individuals from setting up bouncy houses on their own property. Attorney Coplan stated that this code section pertains to operators. Alderman Cox stated that home insurance would protect individuals with bouncy houses. Attorney Coplan expressed concern that it may not be covered. Voting on Amendments to Amusements: Ayes – Aldermen Cox, Elston, Martin, Sotelo, and Stauter. Nays – Alderman Schuchard. Motion carried.

Hadley Skeffington-Vos explained that the three applications for IDOT Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grants are the same as submitted last year. These projects have been coordinated with the Park District. She anticipates resolutions at the next meeting. The projects and estimated costs are

- Second Street from First Avenue to the pedestrian bridge near Broadway, for approximately \$1.1 million
- From Franklin School on 16th Avenue to Lynn Boulevard, on Lynn Boulevard easterly towards Lincolnway, for approximately \$1.2 million
- East Lincolnway from Lynn Boulevard to 45th Avenue, for approximately \$900,000

Federal funds will provide reimbursement up to 50% for right-of-way and easement acquisition costs and up to 80% for preliminary engineering, utility relocations,

construction engineering, and construction costs. Items not included will be lighting, benches, and trash cans. Letters of support are encouraged.

Alderman Cox noted the funds were coming from IDOT, the same place funding comes for street work. Manager Shumard explained these are two separate pots of money. This is federal money and if we don't apply for these funds, someone else will.

Manager Shumard noted the Park District is submitting applications for adjacent paths. The path on Second Street would create a loop from Sterling to Rock Falls along the river from Route 40 to the pedestrian bridge.

Mayor Lee stated the public hearing for the petition from Daniel/Katherine Sigwards and Harkness Properties, LLC to vacate public way (Reins Street) will be rescheduled to July 1, 2013. Manager Shumard indicated the site plan is not complete and they are working on a redevelopment agreement.

Attorney Coplan announced that the City has the deed for 902 Fourth Avenue so we can proceed with the demolition. Coplan also reported proceedings are almost complete for the abandonment of 13 East Fourth Street which will be rehabilitated by a private contractor.

Alderman Schuchard stated that the movies at Grandon have been fun.

Alderman Elston stated that she has enjoyed the movies but would like to see more garbage cans in the park.

Manager Shumard expanded on the Grandon subject by detailing the work that needs to be done. Work includes removal of spruce trees on the north side of the park, repairing benches, and replacing lights. Aside from the Grandon, Shumard noted that three trees will be inspected for possible infestation by the Emerald Ash Borer.

Alderman Martin reported that Juneteenth had a good turnout over the weekend. Activities were moved to the YWCA because of the weather.

Mayor Lee thanked Alderman Martin for covering the Juneteenth event.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Marie Rombouts
City Clerk